



## **Governor Establishes Statewide Interoperability Governing Board**

The Governor's Executive Order 13-2011 formally established a Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB) to direct the operation of the Montana Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS). In early June, a temporary Executive Transition Team was appointed to develop a framework and processes to enable the State of Montana and local jurisdictions to continue to make progress on the interoperability goals and objectives laid out in Montana's Homeland Security Strategic Plan (HSSP) as well as the State Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP).

The SIGB was formed to ensure the future of interoperable communications in Montana. To that end, it will implement ongoing initiatives and projects and continue to manage the orderly transition of resources and grants to local jurisdictions as required by the Dept. of Homeland Security. More importantly, it will engage public safety stakeholders in the development of a long-term, viable plan for the continued development and ongoing operation and maintenance of Montana's public safety communications system.

The SIGB will exist for a two-year period unless otherwise ordered by the Governor or legislature, and it will consist of five voting members representing the following agencies and organizations:

- The Attorney General or his designee
- Governor's Office representative
- The Montana State Chief Information Officer, or his designee
- The Director of the Montana Department of Transportation, or his designee
- A representative of the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association.

Click [here](#) for a copy of the Executive Order and [here](#) for a list of appointees.

## **Positive Outcomes Achieved at Statewide Interoperability Governance Workshop**

On Nov. 8 and 9, the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) conducted a two-day workshop in Helena as part of its interoperability Communications Technical Assistance Program.

Two OEC representatives, Bob Sedita and Woody Sandy, facilitated discussion on the development of Montana's Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB) as established by Executive Order 13-2011.

About 20 persons were in attendance, representing multiple state and local interests, including representatives from Disaster and Emergency Services, the Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association and the appointed SIGB members.

"Local and state attendees agreed on the need to work together to support the communications needs for public safety responders throughout the state," said Warren Dupuis, the new Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC). "This workshop was one of multiple steps taken in preparation for the initial meeting of the SIGB next week," he said.

Outcomes included development of draft organizational mission and vision statements, bylaws, and a charter document to support a statewide public safety communications system. The draft vision and mission statements that will be presented to the SIGB for adoption on Tues., Nov. 22 appear below.

### ***DRAFT Vision Statement***

Ensure Federal, Tribal, State, Regional and Local emergency responders and designated public service organizations are able to communicate across discipline and jurisdictions to respond effectively during day-to-day operations and major incidents.

### ***DRAFT Mission Statement***

In accordance with Executive Order 13-2011, ensure the future of interoperable communications in Montana by engaging all public safety stakeholders in the development of a long-term, viable plan for the continued build-out and ongoing operations and maintenance of public safety communications in Montana.

Montana is grateful to the OEC staff members for their dedicated work to assist the state in the development of these essential organizational tools and documents. The draft Charter and Bylaws are posted to: <http://itsd.mt.gov/policy/councils/sigb/default.mcp.x>.

## **Warren Dupuis Appointed as New SWIC**

The Governor's Executive Order 13-2011 also authorized the State's Chief Information Officer (CIO) to hire a Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) to implement SIGB directions and oversee operation of the state's interoperability efforts—including grants coordination, outreach, and policy development.

On Nov. 2, Warren Dupuis was appointed as Montana's full-time SWIC. He will work with emergency response leaders across all levels of government to imple-



ment a statewide strategic vision for interoperability. As part of this effort, he will be responsible for the implementing the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) as well as coordinating interoperability and communications projects, maintaining governance structures, and assembling work groups to develop and implement key initiatives.

Warren has worked in the State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD) since 2006 and currently serves as the CIO Executive Support Officer. Previously, he worked as a management analyst and as the CIO Program Manager responsible for policy development and strategic planning. Warren retired from the U.S. Army in 2002. He holds a BA in Management with an emphasis in Business Administration and an MA in Computer Research Information Management.

Warren takes over for Carl Hotvedt, retired Public Safety Services Bureau Chief, who served as the SWIC on a temporary basis at the request of the Executive Transition Team. Carl will remain in a part-time transitional role to assist the new SWIC and the SIGB as needed. We know that Warren's expertise will be invaluable to the Montana Public Safety Communications System, and we wish him the very best in his new position.

## **Statewide Interoperability Governing Board to Hold First Meeting**

Montana's new Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB) will be holding its initial meeting on Tues., Nov. 22 from 10:00 am to noon in Room 152 of the State Capitol in Helena. The public is welcome to attend.

Action items that the board will be addressing include:

- Election of Officers
- Approval of Mission, Vision, Charter and Bylaws
- Establishment of Working Groups

A complete agenda will be posted on the SIGB website along with all read-ahead documents, including the draft Charter and Bylaws. Here is the website: <http://itsd.mt.gov/policy/councils/sigb/default.mcp.x>.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

- **Thurs., Nov. 17: I-15/90 Corridor Consortium Meeting Cancelled**
- **Tues., Nov. 22: Statewide Interoperability Governing Board**  
Helena • 10:00 am - noon  
State Capitol, Room 152
- **Tues., Nov. 29: State Agency Radio Users Task Force**  
Helena • 3:00 - 4:30 pm  
Old Livestock Building, 125 E. Lockey Ave., Rm. 105
- **Thurs., Dec. 1: Northern Tier Consortium**  
Havre • 10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Hill County Detention Center Courtroom Mtg. Area  
1450 2<sup>nd</sup> St. West



***Wishing all our Readers  
a Very Happy  
Thanksgiving!***

**Please Note: The  
HAM will not be  
published again  
until Dec. 2.**